

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 IO-13 EA-10 /104 W
-----112362 202319Z /13

R 201031Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5312
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06145

PASS EMBASSY MOSCOW

E.O. 11651: GDS
TAGS: CENTO PK IN UR
SUBJECT: SHAHI-SAUNDERS BILATERAL

1. DURING COURTESY CALL BY ASST SECY SAUNDERS ON PAK
ADVISOR SHAHI IN COURSE OF CENTO MEETING, LATTER
EXPOUNDED ON PAK CONCERNS OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS IN
SOUTH ASIA AND INADEQUACY OF WESTERN (I.E., U.S.)
RESPONSE--THEMES HE HAD DWELT ON IN CENTO FORMAL RESTRIC-
TED SESSION. ALSO PRESENT WERE SHAIKH AND OSMAN (PAK)
AND SOBER (U.S.).

2. SHAHI SAW USSR AS MAINTAINING ITS GOAL FOR STRATEGIC
CONTROL OVER SOUTH ASIA THROUGH CONTINUING CLOSE COLLA-
BORATION WITH INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN AS WELL AS THROUGH
EFFORTS TO CAJOLE IF NOT BLUDGEON PAKISTAN INTO SUB-
MISSION. HE REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO INDO-SOVIET 1971
TREATY AS ESTABLISHING "MILITARY ALLIANCE". SOVIETS, HE
SAID, HAD URGED GOP NOT TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL TO
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HEAD PAK DEL TO CENTO MEETING (FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S
PATTERN), BUT ZIA GOVERNMENT WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH
CENTO PARTNERS. ON OTHER HAND, PAK "INTELLECTUALS" WERE
BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISILLUSIONED WITH LACK OF WESTERN
(U.S.) SUPPORT AND WITH VALUE OF CENTO. THIS PART OF
CONVERSATION FOLLOWED LINES WELL KNOWN TO ADDRESSEES.
ONE NEW POINT WAS SHAHI'S INTIMATION THAT USSR HAD

SUGGESTED RECENTLY POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLYING SOME ARMS TO PAKISTAN IF GOP WISHED; SHAHI IMPLIED THAT GOP WOULD BE EXPECTED, IN THAT EVENT, TO REORIENT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN MOSCOW'S DIRECTION.

3. SHAHI WELCOMED RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS. HE CREDITED VAJPAYEE WITH HAVING BROKEN THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC OBJECTIONS TO ATTAIN GOI APPROVAL OF AGREE-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06145

MENT ON SALLAL DAM DURING SHAHI'S RECENT VISIT TO NEW DELHI. HE ALSO SAW PM DESAI AS A MAN WITH REALISTIC VIEWS ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, SHAHI SAID HE SAW NO SIGNS THAT GOI WAS PREPARED TO OFFER ANY MEANINGFUL CONCESSION THAT MIGHT RESOLVE LONG-STANDING KASHMIR PROBLEM. DURING HIS DELHI VISIT, INDIANS HAD TALKED ABOUT A SECRET BHUTTO-GANDHI AGREEMENT OF 1972 THAT WOULD HAVE COMMITTED BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO FREEZE KASHMIR AT THE CURRENT LINES OF DIVISION; SHAHI WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH SECRET AGREEMENT AND INDIANS HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY TEXT. SHAHI SAID IT WAS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY PAK GOVT TO GIVE UP ITS KASHMIR CLAIM, AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER GOI MOVE ON KASHMIR.

4. SHAHI DEPLORED GOI EFFORT TO ACQUIRE DPSA, EXPRESSING VIEW SUCH AIRCRAFT COULD BE USEFUL ONLY AGAINST PAKISTAN. IF INDIA GOT DPSA, IT WOULD PUT EVEN GREATER PRESSURE ON GOP TO UPGRADE ITS OWN AIR FORCE, WHICH ALREADY BADLY CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSOLESCENT.

5. SHAHI RECALLED HIS SUGGESTION TO THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT U.S. OFFER SOME DEFENSIVE COMMITMENT TO NON-NUCLEAR STATES THREATENED BY NUCLEAR STATES (I.E., INDIA), AND SECRETARY'S RESPONSE THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER THE IDEA. SAUNDERS SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION. SHAHI DID NOT MAKE ANY OTHER EXPRESS PLEA FOR U.S. HELP, ALTHOUGH THAT WAS IMPLICIT IN HIS FRANK AND FRIENDLY EXPOSITION. NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE WAS NOT BROUGHT UP.

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